I strongly oppose deregulation of broadcast ownership. Deregulation and the resulting control of the broadcast media by a few media conglomerates would seriously weaken our democratic society. The availability of news through other sources such as the internet does not begin to compare with ubiquitous access through the broadcast media. Local ownership and operation of radio and television is also critical for immediate broadcasting of community emergency messages concerning disasters, civil defense, or crimes in progress, such as kidnapping.